



## VIRGINIA'S LOSS.

John Randolph Tucker  
Is No More.

## ORATOR AND STATESMAN.

He Passes Peacefully Away at Lexington  
Surrounded by Those He Loved,

RIPE IN YEARS FILLED WITH HONORS.

He Was One of the Greatest Legal Ad-  
vocates of His Time.

## AUTHORITY ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAW.

## Impressions of Those That Knew Him Best

—His Power as a Teacher, His Success as

a Debater in the Halls of Congress, His

Gentleness and Gentility, His Devotion

to Friends and His Tender Regard for

Sacred Themes—A Brief Record of

His Brilliant Career in Public

and Private Life—His Ancestry

—Incidents of His Life

—Tributes to His

Worth.

## LEXINGTON, VA., Feb. 12.—Special.

Hon. John Randolph Tucker, B. L., LL. D.,

died here to-night, He was conscious

up to 2 o'clock this afternoon, and told

his family and relatives good-bye. All of

his immediate family were at his bedside

when he died. He passed away very

quietly.

He was taken sick the first of December

last with bronchitis, but it was

thought that he would soon be out, as the

attack was very slight. In about a week

it turned into pleurisy in a very bad

form. On the 15th of December he had a

severe attack of heart trouble and was

not expected to live through the night. His

strong constitution withstood this at-

tack, and he seemed to improve steadily

up to about three weeks ago, when his

family physician and a visiting physician

held a consultation and pronounced his

disease curable, saying that they expected

him to be out in about six weeks. A

short while after that he began to get

worse. Congestion of the lungs set in

about two weeks ago, and he gradually

grew worse until death relieved him of

all pain at five minutes past 5 o'clock.

## A BRILLIANT CAREER.

Mr. Tucker was born at Winchester,

Va., December 21, 1822. He belonged to

one of the most aristocratic and distin-

guished families of the Old Dominion.

Unlike most sons and grandsons of great

men, he was greater than any of his an-

cestors. His grandfather, St. George Tucker,

born in Bermuda, was noted as a statesman

and an author, being the author of

"Tucker's Blackstone," and a

"Commentary on the Federal Constitution,"

published in 1804. He graduated in

law at William and Mary College, was in

the Revolutionary war for seven years,

was wounded at Guilford Courthouse, and

was at Yorktown when Cornwallis sur-

rendered. He was for a good many years

professor of law at William and Mary

College. His son, Henry St. George Tucker,

followed his father's footsteps as a law-

yer and learned man. He served in the war

of 1812, and was a member of Congress

from 1815 to 1817; was president of the

Court of Appeals of Virginia, was a cul-

tivated and eloquent gentleman and a

patriotic citizen.

## HIS BOYHOOD.

Hon. John Randolph Tucker was one of

thirteen children, all born in Winchester,

Va., and of whom he was the only sur-

vivor. He was about twelve years old

when his father, Judge Henry St. George

Tucker, moved his residence to Rich-

mond, after having been appointed president

of the Court of Appeals.

John Randolph Tucker was born Decem-

ber 21, 1822.

He received his early education at his

home in Winchester, and was sent to the

with the Confederate cause till the sur-

render of Lee and Johnston.

During the war Mr. Tucker resorted

again to the profession of a lawyer, it

was almost entirely without means of

support. He entered partnership with B.

P. Noland, Esq., at Middleburg, Loudoun

County, Va., and practiced in all the

courts for four years. In 1861, while in the

practice, he was elected a lieutenant

of the Northern army came in the court-

room with an order from General Canby

to Judge Henry W. Thomas, to enter a

writ on his books in favor of a North-

ern soldier. When the lieutenant told his

message Mr. Tucker jumped up and told

the judge not to do it, that the civil au-

thority was supreme, and that the Gen-

eral had no right to do any such thing. The

lieutenant threatened to arrest Mr. Tuck-

er, and he told him that he would shoot

him if he did not get out. Mr. Tucker

stood his ground, and he was shot at

and arrested him if he wished, showing

the courage of John Hamilton.

Mr. Tucker was associated during this

time with others in the defense of Jef-

ferson Davis, of the Confederate Presi-

dency. He was appointed in 1860 counsel

for the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, at

the time when J. W. Garrett was presi-

dent of that railroad, and continued in

his law practice with great success,

until he was called to the Chair of Law

at Washington College by General R. E.

Lee, who was at that time its presi-

dent, but who died before Mr. Tucker

entered upon the duties of professor. In

1854, without his solicitation or consent,

Mr. Tucker was nominated for Congress,

and was elected by an overwhelming ma-

jority. He served for six months, on

terms (twelve years), but six months be-

fore the Nominating Convention he pub-

lished a letter, declining re-nomination by

his party.

## IN CONGRESS.

In Congress Mr. Tucker was well known

as a powerful speaker. While he had at

his command all the sarcasm and ridi-

cule of his celebrated kinsman and names-

ake, John Randolph, of Roanoke, such

was the kindness of his nature that he

seldom used the tomahawk or the poison-

ed arrow in debate. He was proven in-

corruptible, and for high integrity and

broad-mindedness combined, no member

of Congress stood higher. His honesty

was unimpeached and unimpeachable.

His debut was made in a speech on

what was called the Centennial bill, Jan-

uary 10, 1856, in which he clearly defined

his views on constitutional construction,

the relation between the powers of the

States individually and the Federal Gov-

ernment. He made himself prominent

also in connection with the Hawaiian

treaty bill, and other public questions,

taking an active part in the great tariff

question and other important matters that

came before the Committee of Ways and

Means, of which he was then a member.

When he was appointed on this commit-

tee, Hon. Fernando Wood was appointed

chairman. The rest of the committee

men being dissatisfied at this appoint-

ment, they requested Mr. Tucker to

allow them to elect him as chairman,

they having the right to do so if they

were dissatisfied with their chairman, but

he positively refused to allow them to do

it. However, at the death of Mr. Wood,

Mr. Tucker was made chairman of that

committee. He was chairman of the

Judiciary Committee of the House during

his last two terms. Among his most in-

fluential friends in Congress were James

A. Garfield and "Big Boy" Kelly, of

Pennsylvania. His friendship for Gar-

field was a friendship for peace, and

with unalloyed pleasure, after Mr. Gar-

field's death, Mr. Tucker was appointed

guardian for his children, and faithfully

performed the trust. His party appointed

him one of the advocates of the great

Constitution, free trade, a sound and sta-

ble currency, and general national integ-

rity.

A GREAT SPEECH.

His speech in Congress on the "tariff"

ever seen. Mr. Tucker's argument had

changed the opinion of the court. Dur-

ing this time he also appeared before the

Supreme Court in the Anarchist's case.

In the great case in re Ayres and in other

cases. In 1850, he was again elected by

the trustees of Washington and Lee Uni-

versity to resume the chair of Constitu-

tional Law, which he filled in 1850, and

which he held up to the time of his

death.

## LIKE HIS UNCLE.

Mr. Tucker was a nephew and names-

ake of John Randolph, of Roanoke, and

possessed the powers of sarcasm and ridi-

cule of his uncle, but never used them

in debate. In Congress he was noted for

his broad views and high standard of

character. In a combination of which he

was excelled by none of his colleagues.

As an after-dinner speaker Mr. Tucker

had no equal in the South and he was

thought by his friends and by those who

heard both of them, to be far superior to

Dr. Chances M. Depew. He was spok-

en of in 1862, immediately after the elec-

tion of President Cleveland, as the only

man who would probably receive the ap-

pointment in the Cabinet of the incoming

President, as Attorney-General, and he

was an elder in Dr. Reed's church when

he died.

Mr. Tucker has left the material for his

completion.

Mr. Tucker had the honor of being presi-

dent of the American Bar Association,

and read several papers before that body.

He was also president of the Bar Asso-

ciation of Virginia.

The people of Lexington were sorely

grieved at his death. A member of the

family said that the sympathy and tender

solicitation shown by the people of Lex-

ington for the restoration of his health

deeply touched his heart, and soothed

his dying pillow. This anxiety was

shown by old and young, white and

black, Republicans and Democrats. The

very infants on the streets would stop

members of the family with the question,

"How is Mr. Tucker to-day," and ex-

pressions of sympathy could be seen in

their little faces.

He was a devoted and zealous Chris-

tian. While in Lexington he would lec-

ture every Sunday morning on the Bible

to the students and others who wished

to hear him, and it is needless to say

that he always had a large crowd. He

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agree with him, deferred to his opinion.

I think Mr. Tucker the greatest man

that Virginia has produced in my time,

and one of the greatest the country has

produced. His long public career was one

of great usefulness, and the impress he

has made is still producing good effects."

## In the Halls of Congress.

Governor O'Ferrall, who served in Con-

gress with Mr. Tucker, said:

"I first met Mr. Tucker in 1855 at the

Winchester bar. I was a mere boy, yet

he showed me the utmost consideration,

and I parted with him with feelings of

more than admiration and respect. He

was a young man then, but he was of

full stature and strength as a lawyer and

advocate. He was esteemed by every

member of the bar. It was soon there-

after that he became Attorney-General

of the Commonwealth, and the ability he

displayed in this responsible position

was the most thing for me to dwell upon.

For some years after the war I saw

very little of him, but between 1871 and

1880 I was with him frequently in polit-

ical canvasses and served several terms

in Congress with him.

"On the hustings I do not think he has

a superior in my day. Many of his

efforts to which I have listened I have

never heard surpassed in point of logic,

eloquence, pathos, and humor."

In a conversation with the editor of the

Tribune, Mr. Tucker was asked to partic-

ularly upon questions of constitutional

law, was recognized and respected by

friend and foe, and no member during

my service with him, could command in

a greater degree the attention of the

House of Representatives than this gift-

ed man, and when he retired from the

House the expression was general

that Virginia would be long in filling his